

ODP-81-994

30 JUL 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: NFAC ADP Control Officer

FROM:

Acting Director of Data Processing

SUBJECT: NFAC Five Year ADP Plan, FY 1983-FY 1987

1. The NFAC Five Year ADP Plan was forwarded to ODP for information and, while a reply is not required, I welcome it as an opportunity to make a few comments and observations. I want you to convey to the various offices the message that this document was widely read in ODP and it is a valuable tool to ODP managers in planning and allocating their resources. We want to encourage continued efforts in this area as it is an important ingredient in our ongoing dialogue on ADP support.

2. Perhaps the most visible area of NFAC concern is the availability of computer terminals and related support. This problem impacts analysts in the performance of their everyday tasks. In one way or another this was reflected in the presentation of each office. ODP's inability to receive adequate funding for terminal procurement should not obscure other steps we are taking to improve service. We continue to approach the problem in many ways and at all levels:

- o We are working with the Offices of Communication and Logistics to increase contractor support for terminal installations.
- o We have reorganized and revitalized our Telecommunications Branch in Engineering Division.
- o We have acquired space in the Depot to serve as a terminal staging and checkout area, repair facility and laboratory.
- o In order to provide computer support to accommodate our growing terminal population, we have acquired a larger CPU for VM (the 3033 MP) and have plans to split the VM system, when necessary, in order to accommodate more users and improve availability.
- o We have established an office level MBO on office automation in order to improve and coordinate our efforts to support the end user in this vital area. This MBO will aid us in monitoring our office automation activities, such as: 1) graphics, 2) word processing, 3) software development (e.g., AIM, our electronic mail system) and 4) related training.

3. In another area of common concern, manpower, solutions are more elusive and not subject to short term resolution. The recruiting, training and effective use of a cadre of highly skilled personnel continues as a top priority for the office. However, a look at the backlog of requests reveals we are barely keeping pace with the continued demand for programming support.

- o We are redirecting our programming efforts to provide increased support to that class of users who do some or all of their own programming.
- o We intend to provide programming support through the rotational assignments of ODP careerists, whenever slots are provided by the requesting office.
- o We will continue to provide training for specific programming and technical skills.
- o Contractual programming support will be provided on a selected basis where it is in the best interests of the Agency to do so.

4. When Project SAFE is fully implemented ODP will manage it as an extension of the centralized service.

- o We are working with the Office of Communications to assure a smooth transition to the BUS communications facility.
- o We have established a joint team with OC to rebuild the message handling facility to assure that all messages are rapidly and accurately transmitted to SAFE.
- o We are actively working on interconnecting SAFE with other ODP services.

5. Finally, this compilation is a valuable source of information and it is a very helpful summary of requirements. Many of these are under active review or proceeding toward implementation. Because of resource limitations, probably not all can be accomplished but it is a useful starting point for detailed discussions. One suggestion, which would greatly aid ODP in the allocation of our scarce resources, is that some sort of priority classification be worked out in future versions of this plan. Such a prioritization would provide ODP with necessary background on where the best payoff would be for NFAC so we can expand our efforts accordingly.

6. Again let me say that this Plan is most useful to ODP and it is evident that a lot of thought and hard work went into the effort.

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